

January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

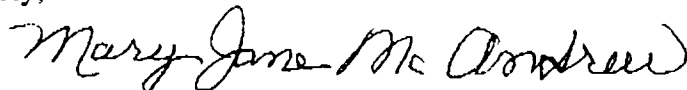
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft has been involved with the federal courts in an antitrust lawsuit for approximately three years now. Last November, a settlement was reached that seemed to mark the beginning of the end. I thought that the struggle would soon be over. That appears not to be the case. Nine states remain litigious, and they have used the past several weeks to sling mud at Microsoft and gather support to overturn the settlement.

In light of the recent terms agreed to under the settlement, I do not see why these states believe Microsoft remains in violation of antitrust laws. Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against any software producer that introduces software onto the market that is in direct competition with Microsoft products. Moreover, Microsoft has agreed not to enter into any agreement that would require a third party to endorse Microsoft products either exclusively or at a fixed percentage. I do not believe terms such as these are too lenient with Microsoft, nor do I believe that the issues raised by Microsoft's competitors have been dealt with lightly.

It seems as though every time Microsoft is attacked, the whole market collapses. This duration of this case has had a derogatory effect on the economy and the IT industry. No good can come of further litigation. In my opinion, the case should remain settled. I see no reason for the suit to be reopened and the settlement overturned. I urge you and your office not to take further action against Microsoft in the federal courts.

Sincerely,



Mary McAndrew
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